

CLAIMS

1. A method for making a tubular fabric comprising the steps of:
 - forming a support yarn and a fusible yarn into a tubular fabric wherein the fabric does not include an elastomeric yarn; and
 - 5 arranging the fusible yarn within the tubular fabric so that the fabric forms a barrier to penetration by a bra wire.
- 10 2. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of forming the yarns into a tubular fabric is performed by weaving the yarns.
3. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the tubular fabric is selected from the group consisting of open fabric and flat fabric.
- 15 4. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the fusible yarn is composed of multifilaments.
5. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the fusible yarn and support yarn are made from a polyamide.
- 20 6. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the fusible yarn has a melting point of 75 to 90°C.
7. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the fusible yarn has a melting point of approximately 85°C.
- 25 8. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the fusible yarn is a polyamide yarn which has substantially the same properties as the yarn known as Grilon® K-85.

9. A method as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the polyamide yarn is textured.

10. A method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the polyamide yarn is composed of a plurality of filaments.

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11. A method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

treating the tubular fabric by heating the fabric whereby the fusible yarn melts and spreads over the interior surface of the tubular fabric; and

cooling the tubular fabric to produce a barrier to penetration by a bra wire.

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12. A method as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the step of treating the tubular fabric by heating is performed by a polyamide fabric dyeing process.

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13. A method as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the temperature is equal to or greater than 100°C.

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14. A method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of treating the tubular fabric so that the yarn strands substantially across the width of the fabric are forced closer together wherein the tubular fabric is stretchable along the length of the tubular fabric.

15. A method as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the step of treating the tubular fabric includes the application of heat and pressure to the fabric.

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16. A method as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the processing temperature is 80 to 200°C.

17. A method as claimed in Claim 11 further comprising the step of locating an underwire within a length of the tubular fabric.

18. A method as claimed in Claim 17 further comprising the step of
5 incorporating the tubular fabric into a garment.

19. A method as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the garment is selected from the group consisting of a bra, a basque and a swimming costume.

10 20. A method as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the tubular fabric includes an elastomeric yarn.

15 21. A tubular fabric comprising a support yarn and a fusible yarn, the fusible yarn is so constructed and arranged to form a barrier to penetration by a bra wire within the tubular fabric and the tubular fabric does not include an elastomeric yarn.

22. A tubular fabric as claimed in Claim 21 wherein the fusible yarn is melted.

23. A garment comprising:

20 a wire; and

a tubular fabric comprising a support yarn and a fusible yarn, the fusible yarn is so constructed and arranged to form a barrier to penetration by the wire that is located within the tubular fabric and the tubular fabric does not include an elastomeric yarn.

25 24. The garment as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the garment is a bra.

25. The garment as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the garment is a basque.

26. The garment as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the garment is a swimming costume.